

Fisheries Habitat Workgroup Proposed Goal and Direction

Goal: To conserve and rehabilitate fish habitat in order to promote sustainable fisheries for today and the future.

Objectives:

Communicate: Inform constituents of conservation priorities by developing outreach and communication strategies.

Facilitate: Mobilize constituents to become conservation partners by developing a strategic conservation approach.

Background:

- Fisheries are shared resources
- Commercial and Recreational anglers traditional constituents
- Habitat management for fisheries needs to include management of the watershed
- Fisheries Managers need to engage ALL constituents; land owners, planners, politicians, local and distant consumers, anglers
- Though constituent base expansive, local constituents (land owners, planners, politicians) steward habitat
- Recent trends in population and development resulting in habitat fragmentation and stress on fish habitat
- To curb these threats we need to promote sound habitat management

Approach:

Step 1: Identify habitat stressors and conservation priorities

Step 2: Prioritize habitat threats and advise Fisheries on habitat conservation needs

Step 3: Identify focus habitats and develop communication and outreach strategies

Step 4: Develop conservation partnerships with local constituents and support local activities

Step 5: Assist and publicize activities and outcome